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ACP SUGAR MEETING DISCUSSES QUOTA WITH EEC

FL181416 Bridgetown CANA in English 1240 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 16, CANA -- Sugar producing nations of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group of countries plan to send a ministerial delegation to meet with the British agriculture minister for talks on continued access for their exports to the United Kingdom market, a spokesman said here last night.

This was one of the issues discussed at the second special ACP ministerial session on sugar which was due to end last night. Eighteen countries were represented, including six from the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

The meeting expressed concern about a request for an increased quota by British beet sugar producers as this could spell serious problems for the sale of ACP sugar to and in Britain, the spokesman said.

Over the three days, the ministers reviewed the mechanism for so-called annual sugar price negotiations with the European Community (EEC), and discussed the possibilities for an increase in the overall ACP sugar quota in the EEC currently fixed at 1.3 million tonnes, he added.

The spokesman said that the EEC's unilateral pricing policy for ACP sugar has been a long standing problem between the Community and the ACP, and the ministers felt that [words indistinct] need for earlier consultations between the ACP ministers responsible for sugar and the EEC commission.

Attention was also directed to the question of the [words indistinct] permanent production shortfalls, an issue described as one of great concern.

The spokesman said the meeting expressed the view that the ACP should use the full range of institutions to press its case on the price negotiations, and it was envisaged that a more active role for the ACP sugar sub-committee and the ACP Secretariat was necessary.

On the question of the increase in the annual sugar quota, the meeting agreed to continue to press the EEC for a 300,000 tonne increase.

The 300,000 tonne increase is being sought in view of Portugal's imminent accession to the Community, as that country is seeking the EEC's blessing to import 300,000 tonnes of sugar, the spokesman said.

The EEC commission has said it would allow four ACP states, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe to export 70,000 tonnes of sugar to Portugal annually at the world market price over a seven year period, the official said.

The EEC said the remainder of Portugal's demand should be met from beet raws (raw beet sugar) from Portugal's overseas territories, and if necessary, from ACP sources, but within the current 1.3 million tonne quota.

The source said the ACP states were not satisfied with this allocation and a common position on this matter was likely to be taken before the meeting concluded.

U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE CONTINUES VISIT

Discusses Terrorism With Merino

PY191437 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] In March, the law on political parties will be up for consideration by the legislative body [the government junta], Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has reported, adding that the law on political parties will be dealt with this year. This statement was made by the Navy commander in chief and member of the government junta upon the conclusion of a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Langhorne Motley. Adm Merino stated that he reviewed with Motley the current state of the nation, the increase in terrorism, and the legislative tasks, emphasizing the law on political parties. Concerning the state of the nation, Adm Merino stated that he discussed past and current problems and the government's aims in 1985 with Motley. Concerning the growing terrorism in South America, Adm Merino emphasized that Chile must fight subversion with a heavy hand because this country must not reach the point of other countries. Adm Merino stated that he had reported to the U.S. official on the tasks being carried out by the legislative branch. Adm Merino told Motley that the laws are being drafted to cope with the needs of an entire nation without the interference of any party or ideas.

Meets With Opposition, Archbishop

PY200255 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2144 GMT 19 Feb 85

[By Albino Mallo]

[Text] Santiago, 19 Feb (EFE) -- Leaders of the opposition coalition Democratic Alliance (AD) today conveyed to Langhorne Motley, President Ronald Reagan's special envoy to Chile, their concerns over the transition to democracy.

Gabriel Valdes, president of the Christian Democratic Party, said that the AD made it clear to the U.S. assistant secretary of state that it wanted to participate in a moderate, normal, and peaceful return to democracy. Valdes added, however, that the current situation, which could be similar to that of Argentina or Uruguay, poses the obstacle of a Constitution which we cannot accept because we do not believe that it is democratic. Valdes told Motley that he feels that it is impossible to look for a solution in a constitutional amendment because the way in which the Constitution was drafted does not allow amendments.

The meeting of the AD with the U.S. diplomat was attended by, in addition to Valdes, Ricardo Lago representing the moderate faction of the Socialist Party, Patricio Morales representing the Radical Party, Luis Bossay of the Social Democratic Party, Julio Subercasseaux for the Republican Right, and Ramon Silva Ulloa for the Popular Socialist Union.

Valdes said: The U.S. envoy told us that he is not a mediator and has only come to listen and collect information. Valdes also said that they talked about the lack of progress in the transition process, press censorship, banishments, and state of siege.

Today Langhorne Motley also met with politicians linked to groups farther to the right than the AD. This meeting involved Gustavo Alessandri, Federico Willoughby, German Riesco, and Andres Allamand.

Allamand, member of the National Democratic Accord (ADENA) indicated that they had told Motley about their worries regarding the status of the press and the inflexibility of both the government and many opposition sectors on certain issues. Allamand added that the politicians who accompanied him explained to the U.S. assistant secretary of state that they want to speed up the transition process by moving up certain constitutional deadlines.

Reagan's envoy also met for more than 1 hour with Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno at the latter's residence. This meeting was attended by U.S. advisers David Deloughy and Jackie Tellman and Ambassador James Theberge, while the archbishop was accompanied by his Auxiliary Bishop Sergio Valech and Vicar General of the Archbishopric Cristian Prech. Prech told the media that no information would be released concerning the meeting because it was just a courtesy call. Motley also talks with representatives of the Workers Democratic Union and Juan Luis Gonzalez, president of the professional associations and the Medical Association. Gonzalez told EFE that the meeting was honest and open without any beating around the bush, with everyone having the chance to state his viewpoint on national problems. He also said that Motley explained his own point of view and asked that the specific issues discussed be treated in a confidential manner. The last of Motley's meetings was with the president of the Christian Democratic International, Andres Zaldivar, who was accompanied by Gabriel Valdes. Zaldivar told EFE that he gave Motley his opinion on Chile's status quo and expressed his belief that the nation wants to move toward democracy peacefully and immediately. Zaldivar added that Chile cannot be the only Latin American country to take no certain steps toward democracy.

In response to questions from journalists, Langhorne Motley continued to remind them of the press conference which he will hold tomorrow, 20 February at 2100 local time (2400 GMT) at the airport, shortly before leaving for the United States.

INTERIOR MINISTER MEETS WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS

PY191350 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The new interior minister, Ricardo Garcia, held a long meeting with nearly 60 trade union leaders. Upon the conclusion of the meeting, the union leaders agreed in stressing Garcia's goodwill for finding solutions to problems. They also stated that Minister Garcia had promised them that he will look into the best way to establish close contacts with the productive sectors in the country. Copper union leader Hugo Estivales stated that the interior minister appeared to be a trustworthy man:

[Begin recording] Well, this has actually been a surprise for us since he seems to be very friendly, a trustworthy man, and we should wait to see what is the response to our claims. [end recording]

UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADER BANISHED TO NORTH

PY181116 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0309 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Santiago, 16 Feb (EFE) -- According to official sources, Gonzalo Rovira, vice president of the University of Chile Student Federation, was banished today for an indefinite time to Conchi, located in the northern region of the country. Gonzalo Rovira had been arrested on 11 February as he was about to attend the funeral and burial of University of Chile student Patricio Manzano. Manzano, who was arrested along with 200 other university students for participating in university summer social assistance programs which the government branded illegal, died from a heart attack as he was being taken from a Carabineros precinct to an emergency hospital.

EXPORT OFFICIAL ON U.S. 'PROTECTIONIST BARRIERS'

PA182103 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 11 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] The protectionist barriers erected by the United States pose a serious threat to Colombian exports, Alberto Schlesinger Velez, director of the Colombian Export Promotion Fund [Proexpo], he said. In statements to Emisoras CARACOL's "Celebrity of the Week" program, the director of Proexpo stated that if barriers prevail and grow there is a danger that the U.S. market will be closed to Colombian products. "At present we are having problems exporting textiles. This is currently the object of an investigation that may lead to the implementation of compensatory taxes. This would close the U.S. market to that product," Schlesinger Velez said.

He emphasized that in the future Colombia will have to focus on a diversification of exports as the basic strategy to reactivate foreign trade and overcome exchange and fiscal problems. With regard to the Export Plan [not further identified], the high-ranking official said that it was drafted not only by Proexpo, but includes ideas from the private sector and the government which were incorporated into the program. "We want to diversify the market and introduce a wide variety of products. We are not speaking of 30 product lines, but of some 150 lines that were chosen as priorities. Great efforts will be made to promote them," Schlesinger said. His main points follow:

Question: Do you believe that Colombia will have the capacity to or be willing to impose rationing on Colombian products at home to benefit exports?

Answer: It would not, in most cases, be a matter of rationing. It would imply, however, rationalizing consumption by establishing that exportation is desirable and necessary to develop the Colombian economy.

M-19 ELECTS NEW COMMANDER, GENERAL STAFF

PA191715 Paris AFP in Spanish 1425 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 Feb (AFP) -- Ideologist Alvaro Fayat, a frail-looking man who is 1.65 meters tall was elected new commander of the 19 April Movement [M-19] leftist guerrilla organization, according to press reports released today in Bogota. Fayat, a 35-year-old attorney, succeeded Ivan Marino Ospina, a former officer, who had in turn replaced M-19 founder, the late Jaime Bateman Cayon, in April 1984. Bateman Cayon died on 28 April 1983 in a plane crash on the Colombian-Panamanian border. However, his remains were recovered and buried in the Caribbean port of Santa Marta 1 year after his death.

Press reports added that Alvaro Fayat was elected as the new M-19 commander during a congress held by the guerrilla group in the mountains of southwestern Colombia. The M-19 congress also appointed a new general staff consisting of Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez, who was elected commander, Gustavo Arias, and the demoted Ospina, in addition to Fayat. According to reports released today in Bogota, the M-19 increased the number of members in its high command from 9 to 19 and on the political front, decided to end its opposition to the Betancur administration.

The M-19 signed a peace treaty with the government on 24 August 1984. Since then, it has been conducting what it calls "a great national dialogue" to analyze Colombian problems. According to press reports, the new M-19 strategy will seek social reforms needed by the country through the creation of a force to "make democracy a goal of the government."

The liberal newspaper EL TIEMPO of Bogota reported today that "as for the administration of President Betancur, the M-19 believes that it has lost its autonomy from the Armed Forces."

FARC'S 'COMMANDER FLAVIO' CAPTURED IN MAGDALENA

PA181533 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Feb 85 p 6 A

[Text] A high-ranking military source announced yesterday that the Army had captured the second in command of the 11th Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] Front following a clandestine meeting during which the leaders of that organization agreed to carry out actions in central Magdalena, to eliminate an anticommunist politician, and to temporarily suspend their kidnapping activities.

According to the sources, "Commander Flavio," whose real name was not provided, was captured by members of the Army's intelligence services in some unspecified place in central Magdalena, after he had attended a FARC meeting in Sumapaz, Cundinamarca, presided over by Manuel Marulanda Velez, also known as Tirofijo. Flavio is the FARC's second highest-ranking leader after "Commander Ramon," and the military authorities announced his capture as an important development in the antiguerrilla struggle.

According to the military spokesmen, the capture of this guerrilla leader made it possible to detect the action plan outlined at the FARC summit meeting. According to those reports, four guidelines were issued at this meeting for the various guerrilla fronts:

1. Set up a commando unit of 60 armed men to fight the Death to Kidnappers (MAS) Movement in Puerto Boyaca.
2. Train a suicide commando unit to kill the Liberal deputy in the Boyaca assembly, Pablo Guarin Vera, one of the most staunchly anticommunist politicians in the region.
3. Each FARC front must turn over to the higher command a quota of 50 rifles during the current truce period.
4. Kidnappings will be suspended for now, as FARC has enough financial resources to support itself for the next 2 years.

ELN CELL ABDUCTS SANTA ROSA MAYOR, JUDGE

PA191841 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Popayan -- An Army of National Liberation [ELN] cell comprised of about 30 men occupied Santa Rosa a few hours ago and after haranguing the local people, took both the mayor and the municipal mixed court judge as hostages.

According to a national police spokesperson, the guerrilla members, armed with modern weapons, stormed the town of Santa Rosa, in southern Cauca, and using death threats, gathered the local people to hear a tirade against the peace agreements signed between the government and the guerrillas. The subversives also painted the wall of the mayor's and municipal judge's offices. The fate of Mayor (Hugo Alberto Romero) and Judge (Raul Geron Sanchez) is unknown.

It takes 15 hours to get from Popayan to Santa Rosa, which has no police force or access roads. Army troops and police patrols are being mobilized by both air and land to locate the insurgents, who kidnapped the two officials.

M-19, FARC ACTIONS IN CAUCA DEPARTMENT REPORTED

PA181424 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Feb 85 p 2 A

[Report by Carlos Campo]

[Text] Popayan, 10 Feb -- An F-2 [police intelligence] unit of the Cauca police exchanged fire with a group of 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrillas, while members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] killed two peasants.

The 20-minute clash began when an 11-man patrol of the F-2 commanded by an officer and engaged in a drug-control operation was attacked by a group of individuals claiming to be M-19 members at Llacuanas, Almaguer municipality, in southern Cauca Department.

Neither side reported any casualties. The presumed M-19 guerrillas retreated to the mountains, while the F-2 recovered three sticks of dynamite, food, a pair of binoculars, clothes, cartridge belts, and weapon covers.

Meanwhile, the police have reported that a FARC cell operating in the Occidental Mountain Range entered a country store in El Llanito, killing two and wounding two minors.

The group of approximately 10 men wearing uniforms of the military forces shot to death the brothers Alcides and Gonzalo Mosquera Viveros, 28 and 26 years old, respectively.

John and Zulita Mosquera Viveros, 4 and 14 years old, respectively, were taken to the Santander de Quilichao hospital where they are in serious condition as a result of bullet wounds sustained during the attack.

FOUR FARC MEMBERS KILLED IN CLASH WITH ARMY

PA160446 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Feb 85 p 1 A

[Text] Four guerrilla members of the 11th front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, were killed by military patrols of the 14th Armed Forces Brigade on the border between Boyaca and Antioquia Departments.

A Defense Ministry source said that Helio Fabio Zapatas, alias Sandino, and Evangelino Carvajal, alias Mariela, were killed during the clash at Quebrada Guinea, near Minero River.

Two other corpses, which have yet to be identified, were also found in the area; EL TIEMPO was able to ascertain that a woman, Luz Marina Marmolejo, turned herself in to the Barbula Battalion military troops.

The Army confiscated three .16-caliber shotguns, a long-barrel .32-caliber gun, one grenade, one backpack, and subversive propaganda from the FARC guerrilla forces.

Sandino was reorganizing the guerrilla group's assault troops in Antioquia and Boyaca Departments by recruiting young peasants.

PROTESTS VOICED OVER EXPULSION OF SPANISH PRIEST

Archbishopric Communique

PY151726 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1445 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Father Juan Antonio Lucas of the Sacred Heart congregation, a university teacher and Spanish citizen, was expelled from the country yesterday. The public relations office of the archbishopric has issued a communique.

According to this communique, the priest, who was also in charge of administrative affairs of Lord the Savior parish, yesterday went to the immigration department at the request of Mr Jorge Miranda. He did not return to his parish in Villa Victoria. The communique goes on to say that at 1400 Father Lucas called from Clorinda [Argentine border town] explaining that he had been forced to leave the country.

So far no church authorities have been briefed officially on the action or the causes which led to the expulsion of the priest.

The archbishopric protests the expulsion and hopes for a prompt official explanation, as well as the immediate return of the priest, according to the communique released a few minutes ago.

Father Juan Antonio Lucas had been teaching at the Catholic University.

PLR, PDC Repudiate Expulsion

PY200235 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Asuncion, 19 Feb (EFE) -- Several parties that oppose President Alfredo Stroessner's government today repudiated the expulsion of Spanish priest Juan Antonio Lucas. The Interior Ministry has reported that the priest, who is a member of the Sacred Heart congregation, was expelled because he lacked the identity documents that all foreign residents must possess.

The Radical Liberal Party [PLR], the leading minority bloc in Congress, today expressed in an official communique that the expulsion of the priest is typical of official repression against the Paraguayan church, which is clearly a part of our peoples' struggle to recover freedom. The PLR communique adds that the expulsion of Lucas is an example of the fact that constitutional rights and guarantees are systematically and unscrupulously violated in our country.

Lucas had lived for more than 13 years in Paraguay carrying out his religious task at an Asuncion vicariat and he also taught at the Catholic University of Asuncion.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC], which lacks legal status, stresses in its document that the expulsion of Lucas, whose work it lauds, is another violation of the Constitution. The PDC adds that the right to live in one's country is a universal right that is recognized in the UN Charter and in the Paraguayan Constitution.

CONGRESS OPENS, CALLS FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS

PY160240 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0008 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 15 Feb (TELAM-REUTER-EFE) -- The Uruguayan Congress today resumed its activities after 12 years of being closed down by the Armed Forces' bloodless military coup. A whole generation of astonished Uruguayans who never experienced living in freedom today began to understand the value of democracy and life without military authoritarianism. Small facts that surprise the young and move the old demonstrate the transformation undergone in Uruguay in the past few hours, particularly this afternoon. The imposing Congress building, which was constructed 60 years ago and which had been the amplifier of the people's opinion in Uruguay's traditional democracy, today recovered its splendor.

The 30-member Chamber of Senators, and the 99-member Chamber of Deputies were installed separately and afterwards held a joint general assembly, thus inaugurating their 42d session. Senator Jorge Batlle was chosen as Senate president, and Deputy Antonio Marchesano as president of the Chamber of Deputies. They both belong to the Colorado Party of President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti who will be installed on 1 March with his Vice President-elect Enrique Tarigo, who is also president of the Congress, as established by the Constitution.

When Senator Batlle announced in his speech that the country had recovered its rights, hundreds of thousands of persons surrounded the Congress building and booed the military battalion that is in charge of guarding the legislators. It is the same Florida battalion which occupied and closed down Congress on 27 June 1973, a date that has become a black day in Uruguayan history. Even the cold marble walls of Congress seemed to feel the warmth of Senator Batlle's impassioned speech and the people's joy for the rebirth of democracy as expressed by shouting and waving of flags and signs.

Since before dawn, a crowd waited in front of the Congress building and an emotional atmosphere affected everyone, even the young journalists who did not know such civic expressions because they were used to the severe protocol of the now deposed military regime. Today, that severity was replaced by the hospitality of all those gathered around the building, including old, retired congressional employees. Identification documents were not required. The trust in the press was reborn with democracy. Undoubtedly, the sad memories of 27 June 1973 were left behind.

Resolution on Political Prisoners

PY160255 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0114 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Feb (EFE) -- The first resolution passed by the Uruguayan Congress, which was installed today, called for freedom for all political prisoners. In a resolution approved by the majority, the Uruguayan legislators demanded the liberation of former Communist Deputy Vladimir Turiansky, who was arrested in 1975 on charges of subversion. Following a brief debate, a demand for the release of all other political prisoners was included in the resolution, in anticipation of an amnesty law that will be the main task of deputies and senators in the next few days.

The demand for Turiansky's freedom is based on the military government disregard for the congressional immunity of a legitimately elected congressman. The legislators who spoke on behalf of Turiansky's freedom emphasized that the illegality of the government action stems from the fact that the military men who headed the coup were not legitimate leaders.

Military Court Frees 7

PY161940 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1456 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Feb (EFE) -- A total of seven political prisoners have been set free by a military court which granted them early releases. The prisoners who were released, all of them men, had been charged with belonging to the Tupamaros National Liberation Movement or to the proscribed Communist Party and were serving sentences of up to 10 years. Their release, after having served more than half of their sentences with time off for good behavior, coincides with the end of the dictatorship marked by yesterday's installation of the Uruguayan Congress, which ended a 12-year military regime.

During the first session, after a lengthy debate, the legislators agreed to request the release of former leftist legislator Vladimir Turiansky and all other political prisoners. It is estimated that there are still more than 300 political prisoners in jail; 10 of them are military officers who opposed the 27 June 1973 coup, some 30 are women, and the rest are men.

GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW FOREIGN CURRENCY OPERATIONS

PY191444 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0218 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Feb (EFE) -- The future financial administration of Uruguay will continue the policy of permitting foreign currency deposits and will respect existing foreign currency deposits, but it will change the country's credit orientation, the president-designate of the Bank of the Republic told EFE today.

Federico Slinger, former vice president candidate of the Civic Union, which follows a social Christian line, has been chosen by President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti to head the country's most important official commercial bank. He told EFE that credits will be granted in the currency denomination in which the debtor will handle his amortizations. According to this economist, who was dean of the economic science school in the democratic period preceding the military dictatorship, commercial paper related to imports and exports will be denominated in foreign currency.

He added that the official policy will encourage savings in domestic currency, but will respect savings in foreign currencies, thus fulfilling the promise made by all the presidential candidates before the 25 November election. Slinger also informed EFE that the free movement of capital will continue and that the inflow of private foreign deposits will be permitted. He also revealed that the central bank, the highest monetary institution of Uruguay, will change and will apply its credit to productive activities.

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES ARMY, AIR FORCE DAY CEREMONY

FL192144 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2105 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Excerpts] In his Mexican Army and Air Force Day message, President Miguel de la Madrid today said: We Mexicans have ideological cohesion, patriotic conviction, and sufficient revolutionary unity to face the trials of the present.

The chief executive, accompanied by Secretary of National Defense Juan Arevalo Cardoqui and Secretary of Navy Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega, presided over the ceremony held to commemorate the Army in this capital. During the ceremony, the president exhorted the military to preserve in their service to the fatherland and to continue to perform as the active, dynamic, and faithful foundation of the nation's high values and institutions. The commander in chief of the Armed Forces said the Army and Air Force have known how to give proof of their loyalty to our institutions, and of their self-denial and sacrifice in carrying out their duties.

The president was accompanied by members of his Cabinet and by the leader of the Chamber of Deputies, Humberto Lugo Gil, and other personalities.

GOVERNMENT ASSUMES CONTROL OF NUCLEAR PROGRAMS

PA160143 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 9 Feb 85 p 12

[By columnist Upendra Nath Mishra]

[Text] Mexico's new 52-article nuclear regulatory law, which was passed by Congress in December, became effective this week, abolishing the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) and Uarnio Mexicano (Uramex). The Secretariat of Energy, Mining and Parastate Industry will take charge of dividing up the CNEA property. The Planning and Budget Secretariat and the Federal Attorney General's office, with the Secretariat of Energy, Mining and Parastate Industry, will draw up guidelines for the liquidation of Uramex which is to be dissolved by the end of this year. The government has promised to relocate CNEA and Uramex workers to the areas that "best correspond to their training."

The dissolution of Uramex and the CNEA and the government's decision to take the country's struggling 29-year-old nuclear energy program under its direct control is a healthy sign of the increasing importance which the De la Madrid administration is now attaching to the development of nuclear energy in the face of declining world prices of oil.

For quite a long time, the government was caught between the supporters and opponents of nuclear energy. The opponents argue that Mexico's crippling economy, lack of trained personnel and little experience in the nuclear field do not augur well for a nuclear future. The supporters, on the other hand, hold that Mexico's energy demand will become 3.3 times greater by the end of this century and, thus, the government must take precautionary measures to develop alternative sources of energy. They also argue that nuclear energy will drastically reduce Mexico's dependence on oil and increase its foreign exchange earnings.

Influenced by the latter argument, De la Madrid decided to reduce domestic oil energy consumption and develop alternative sources of energy, especially nuclear energy. In August 1984, under a newly designed National Energy Plan (1984-88), the government defined one of Mexico's main objectives as "energy self-sufficiency through the year 2000, and energy diversification, savings and productivity."

The new nuclear regulatory law, which seeks to preserve the country's uranium resources, stipulates that radioactive materials are solely the property of the nation and prohibits granting or contracting out exploration or exploitation of such minerals. The law also puts severe restrictions on the export of nuclear materials. Under it, Mexico cannot export more than 5 percent of its proven national reserves of nuclear material. Mexico has 1,000 tons of estimated uranium reserves and a lot more, it is believed, will be found in the next decade. The federal government, in accordance with the programs and policies of national development planning, will take charge of providing nuclear fuels for all future nuclear research projects. The research centers, institutes and universities, however, which own or lease nuclear materials will be allowed to keep them as long as they abide by the provisions of the new regulatory law and other rules to be issued by the Energy Secretariat. These changes reveal the government's desire to bring some order to its nuclear efforts. Ever since Mexico began its nuclear program in 1955, it has been plagued by false starts and sudden stops. For example, Mexico initiated a nuclear energy drive but, later in the decade, especially during the Tlatelolco Treaty discussions, the idea was dropped. Then again, during the early 1970s and in the wake of the growing world energy crisis, Mexico again decided to proceed with the development of nuclear energy. Its commitment seemed assured when it decided to erect a medium-sized nuclear power plant, consisting of two nuclear reactors with 1,300 megawatt capacity, at Laguna Verde, Veracruz. The first nuclear reactor, which is still not operational, was originally scheduled to begin functioning in 1976. The Laguna Verde nuclear plant, whose costs have already increased four times beyond original estimates, is expected to cost more than 3 billion dollars when completed in 1988.

Despite these bitter experiences, the Mexican Government once again ventured in 1981 to push ahead with a 30-billion dollar nuclear energy program to stretch over a period of 20 years. The aim was to supply 320,000 megawatts of electric energy and construct nearly 20 nuclear reactors by the end of 2000. In May 1982, however, as a result of its worsening economic crisis, the Mexican government was again forced to suspend its nuclear program, despite the fact that construction work on the first stage had already begun. Nevertheless, the present administration has redesigned Mexico's struggling nuclear program as part of the National Energy Plan (1984-88). Under it, Mexico intends to complete the two nuclear reactors at the ill-fated Laguna Verde nuclear power plant by 1988. Its completion is to be followed by the construction of yet another new nuclear power plant at an as-yet undetermined location.

AGRICULTURE COOPERATION WITH GUATEMALA TO INCREASE

FL181254 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Tapachula Chis, 15 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Guatemala and Mexico signed here today a letter of intention to increase bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock, and forestry, the Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources has reported. The document was signed by the Guatemalan Agriculture Minister Juan Humberto Mancur and Mexican Secretary of Agriculture Eduardo Pesqueira Olea, at the ministerial level meeting between the two countries on agriculture and forestry which was inaugurated here in this city.

SECRETARIAT REPORTS 3.5 PERCENT GDP GROWTH IN 1984

FL181636 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2055 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 15 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's gross domestic product [GDP] grew 3.5 percent in 1984 compared to 1983, a larger growth than had been anticipated, in contrast to decreases registered in the past 2 years.

The Secretariat of Programming and Budget reported this and said that all of the country's largest sectors had had real increases, with a global GDP total of 29,438,857,800,000 pesos. It said industrial manufacturing rose 4.7 percent of 1984 against a 2.9 percent retraction in 1982, and 7.3 percent in 1983. The secretariat added that the basic metal industry grew 12.6 percent, while nonmetallic minerals grew 9 percent, and chemicals and its derivatives grew 7 percent. It said the construction industry grew 3.4 percent, the electrical industry grew 7 percent, and the combined hotel, restaurant, and business sector grew 2.7 percent.

IMCE DIRECTOR ON TRADE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

FL151453 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2225 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Foreign Trade Institute (IMCE) has pointed out that Mexico should take advantage of markets in the socialist countries by exporting manufactured goods and acquiring technology, machinery, and other goods from that region.

IMCE Director Manuel Armandariz Etchegaray, who delivered the closing speech at the seminar on trade and economic cooperation between Mexico and the socialist countries, confirmed that the current administration's policy is to propose an exchange of views and establish economic and commercial relations between Mexico and that region. He said that at the IMCE-organized seminar, the UNCTAD Secretariat had discussed and proposed a radical change in the current conditions of trade and economic cooperation between Mexico and the socialist countries. He said it was also emphasized at the meeting that the majority of Mexico's private businessmen receive sufficient information on trade agreements and protocols by which they can acquire industrial, fishing, farming, and iron, and steel-making equipment.

He said that with the new program of integral export development, economic exchanges between Mexico and the European socialist countries can be revitalized.

PAN DEMONSTRATORS, POLICE CLASH; FIVE INJURED

PA190030 Paris AFP in Spanish 2316 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Piedras Negras, 18 Feb (AFP) -- The police and the National Action Party (PAN, leading right-wing opposition) accused each other of being responsible for initiating a shootout during a political rally on Sunday in this city, which resulted in five injuries. According to the official report, the clash in which three policemen, one PAN militant, and a newsman were wounded occurred when demonstrators tried to block a border bridge of this northern city which links Mexico with the United States.

Flope Perez, commander of the regional judicial police, said that the PAN members began the shootout when the police prepared to disperse the demonstrators in the rally, called to protest the victory in the municipal elections of the (ruling) Institutional Revolutionary Party.

For his part, Eleazar Cobas, former PAN candidate for president of the municipality, said that the police fired several shots into the air to disperse the PAN members and that one of them hit one of the militants, creating panic and causing the militants to try to get to the bridge to avert the repression.

Last 29 December a clash between PAN members and the police over a similar situation in Piedras Negras resulted in 1 dead and 80 wounded.

ARDITO BARLETTA DISCUSSES BUDGET, NEW TAXES

PA162006 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The adjustments made to the national budget and the savings in public expenditures will allow for a better future for the nation, President Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta said:

[Begin recording] I believe the Legislative Assembly, through its Budget and Finance Committees, is doing a highly commendable job, with evident responsibility and patriotism. At this time, we must all strive for a brighter future through a combined national effort with confidence in ourselves and with optimism and hope.

In order to do this, to provide housing for all, and to help private enterprise to generate employment, we must have a healthy fiscal situation. For this we need to approve the budget, properly balanced, with reduced expenditures and we must consider other reductions now being studied by the Budget Committee. We must also approve the new incomes required to stabilize the fiscal situation.

No one likes to pay new taxes and no one likes to impose new taxes. These are national needs at a difficult time. Therefore, an overall understanding of the problem has been possible through dialogue and the explanations made to various sectors of the community in the past weeks. Even though we prefer not to pay new taxes, a better understanding of the problem will help us realize that the reduction of expenditures is important, but that we cannot go to the extreme of dismissing thousands of public employees, as it would be inhuman and imply a high social cost for all of us. Therefore, we must strengthen the fiscal situation through some proposed taxes, which we must admit are quite moderate, in order to balance the budget, and above all, to proceed to improve our economy through a joint effort in a national concerted action.
[end recording]

PRESIDENCY MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON REORGANIZATION

PA152214 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Feb 85 pp 1, 23

[Communique issued by the Ministry of the Presidency, published in Panama City on 14 February]

[Text] With the aim of keeping the Panamanian people adequately informed and averting a misinformation campaign that has emerged regarding the discussion of the 1985 national budget, the Ministry of the Presidency reports the following:

The presidency has been restructured as of 1 January so that it will be the first government organization to put into practice the political commitment of developing an efficient, professional, and honest public administration.

The presidential and vice presidential offices have 120 employees, 50 of whom work in security, communications, and transportation, and are presidential and vice presidential messengers working full time on a rotational basis. The Ministry of the Presidency, which supports the president and the public administration in general, has 218 employees. An additional 41 individuals who have been given positions in this ministry were working in other government offices and the corresponding budget has been included in the offices where they have worked since the 1985 budget went into effect. Furthermore, the General Directorate for Community Development (Digedecom), the National Environmental Commission, the Commission for the Development of Colon (Codeco), and the General Secretariat of Information have been assigned to the Ministry of the Presidency to work under administrative autonomy.

With the exception of the General Secretariat of Information, these offices work under specialized programs apart from the presidency.

In restructuring the presidential and vice presidential offices, the traditional figure of the adviser, dedicated exclusively to expressing opinions at the president's or vice presidents' request with time to devote to other activities, has been eliminated. The president now has full-time officials to assist him. They are capable persons who are able to function effectively, are in a position to offer highly technical and professional services, and are available to the president and vice president so that they can devote their time to the task of governmental leadership.

Therefore, the presidency's 1985 budget, as the minister of the presidency said before the Legislative Assembly Budget Committee, substantially reduces bureaucracy in the presidency, particularly in the offices of the president and vice presidents. The budget establishes that eight presidential assistants with technical and administrative support personnel are responsible for the proper operation of these offices. The assistants coordinate political affairs, coordinate and follow-up governmental management, program the president's work, plan presidential priorities on the national agenda, and establish harmonious relations with the legislative and judicial branches, as well as an adequate relationship with state consultation and coordination organizations.

The president's main task of directing the public administration in an effective, dynamic, and responsible manner in collaboration with the vice presidents requires that the president have at his disposal persons he can trust and who have the full professional capabilities to support him in his daily activity of directing a more complex and modern Panamanian state whose people demand and deserve more services, more attention, and more participation.

Regarding the salaries and names of the advisers published, we make the following clarification: They correspond to December 1984, precisely at the time when the reorganization implemented as of 1 January 1985 was under way. It included the names of 90 persons who work in other offices but have been assigned to the Ministry of the Presidency. As of 1 January, these assignments and payrolls were transferred to the proper ministries.

Furthermore, the publication highlights the names of "advisers" who have held high government positions in former governments, most of whom were removed from the presidency as of 1 January as a result of the reorganization. More than 100 of the names published are not Ministry of the Presidency personnel.

All in all, with the approval of the budget 131 positions within this ministry will have been abolished. Therefore, we consider the publication biased.

COSTA RICAREQUEST FOR STAFF REDUCTION AT NICARAGUAN EMBASSY

PA200326 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] The Costa Rican Government asked Nicaragua to reduce its personnel at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose in a note personally delivered to Ambassador Leonor Arguello de Hupper this afternoon. The note, signed by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, states that according to Articles 9 and 11 of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, the number considered convenient is 10. In addition, he points out that Costa Rican personnel at the country's embassy in Managua does not exceed this number; therefore, the Nicaraguan Government must withdraw the diplomatic and administrative officials that exceed this number.

The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry has given the Nicaraguan Government 30 days to reduce its personnel at the embassy in San Jose. Currently 47 persons are accredited at the Nicaragua diplomatic mission, including maids, drivers, and other personnel not engaged in diplomatic activities. In addition, it was revealed that the Nicaraguan Embassy uses approximately 100 automobiles, many of which circulate with private license plates. Although Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez did not reveal additional measures as part of those announced last week by President Luis Alberto Monge against the Sandinist regime, he said that they will be announced when adopted.

Regarding the reduction in personnel, Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that this is a drastic measure and must be honored within the established deadline.

There are only three diplomatic officials and five staff officials at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. There are plans to appoint four security officials, so the number of staff officials will be reduced, the foreign minister said.

Sandinist Ambassador Leonor Arguello de Hupper met with embassy personnel this afternoon to discuss the measure adopted by the Costa Rican Government, but no statement was issued on the matter. Sources at the Nicaraguan diplomatic mission said that the government's message was sent to the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry and that a communique may be issued tomorrow.

According to views of some international law experts, the Sandinist government will have no choice but to comply with the Costa Rican Government's demand. Therefore, it will have to withdraw those personnel exceeding the number of Costa Rican personnel in Managua.

GUTIERREZ RESPONDS TO NICARAGUAN CHARGES

PA191525 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said that Costa Rica's borders are open for the Contadora Group's Commission for Prevention and Verification or an OAS commission to come to investigate the charges made by the Nicaraguan Government. In view of Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's charges that there are rebel camps for training and operations in our country, the minister said that appropriate international organizations desiring to investigate these charges can do so any time. The government will provide all the facilities needed to conduct the most careful investigation, the foreign minister added.

While reiterating that the dissident organizations of Nicaragua and El Salvador have the opportunity to operate politically in our country, Minister Gutierrez stressed that the government does not permit any kind of military action on its territory. He explained that security authorities maintain permanent vigilance over the border area and that every time charges have been made about the existence of camps, investigations have been conducted, but nothing has ever been found. However, the foreign minister concluded, if the Contadora Group members want to conduct an investigation in response to the Nicaraguan Government's charges, the Costa Rican Government will do all in its power to help clear these charges definitively.

NICARAGUAN REFUGEES CONTINUE CROSSING BORDER

PA190407 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Costa Rican Red Cross has reported that 154 Nicaraguan refugees entered the country this past Saturday and Sunday. Miguel Carmona, president of that institution, has stated that the immigrants entered national territory through Santa Ana, Los Chiles, (Ipala), Santa Rosa de Pocosol, and Barra del Colorado. Three of the refugees had to be taken to the Quesada city hospital with leg infections, but have already been returned to the Red Cross.

The Nicaraguans remain in the Santa Rosa de Pocosol health center. They will be there for a few days, until the Tilaran transit center has room for them.

In view of the many recent arrivals, the National Refugee Commission and the International Red Cross are moving refugees to the (Chioti) farm in Buenos Aires, Puntarenas. Once there is room in the Tilaran center the Nicaraguans in Santa Rosa de Pocosol will be taken there.

Miguel Carmona said that attention to the Nicaraguan groups is increasing because they include many pregnant women and young children. Young men aged 14 and older are also arriving.

LEGISLATORS CONCERNED OVER U.S. SHIP'S WEAPONS

PA192133 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] A large controversy has developed at the Legislative Assembly concerning the presence in Costa Rican waters of the U.S. battleship Iowa. Several legislators have said that the Iowa carries nuclear weapons of which the Costa Rican Government has not been informed. Deputy Sergio Erik Ardon of the New Republic Movement said that the warship is armed with 32 cruise missiles and has the capability to carry warheads.

The Iowa arrived in Puerto Limon last Saturday with 62 officers, 90 noncommissioned officers and 1,410 sailors. It will leave Costa Rican waters today. The Legislative Assembly, as stipulated in the Constitution, authorized the ship's arrival.

TRIBUNAL DISSOLVES UNITED PEOPLE'S COALITION

PA181503 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Feb 85 p 2

[Excerpt] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal declared yesterday the definitive dissolution of the United People's Coalition, composed of the Popular Vanguard Party [PVP], the Costa Rican Socialist Party, and the Workers Party.

The coalition was dissolved because it was not extended following the 1982 national elections, according to the will expressed of two of the parties comprising the coalition in the national assemblies.

The tribunal declared the dissolution after studying for several days an appeal filed by Dr Rodrigo Gutierrez Saenz president of the coalition, and Humberto Vargas Carbonell, president of the Executive Committee of the PVP's superior organization.

Gutierrez Saenz and Vargas Carbonell had appealed a Civil Registry resolution issued at 0900 on 18 December 1984 by Civil Registry Director Rafael Villegas Antillon.

EL SALVADOR

U.S EMBASSY GUARD KILLED 16 FEBRUARY

PA192036 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 18 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] The shooting and killing of Jorge Amilcar Platero Recinos, 19, a security guard at the U.S. Embassy, is being investigated. The incident occurred at approximately 1150 Saturday on the corner between 23d West Street and 25th Southern Avenue on the sidewalk, across from the Federation of Credit Funds building.

It was learned today at the Fourth Peace Court that neither the circumstances surrounding the shooting of Platero Recinos nor the identity of his murderer have been determined. However, Alverto Hernandez Perez, another security guard at the U.S. Embassy, is being detained and investigated.

The victim's body was taken to the Isidro Mendez Judicial Center by the embassy's security personnel. At the judicial center, the body was examined by officials on duty.

Platero Recinos was from San Jose Villanueva, La Libertad Department.

FORCES ON ALERT FOR FMLN TRANSPORTATION THREAT

PA192336 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Excerpt] FMLN guerrilla groups have again issued a call to drivers and a threat to the transportation sector by banning the use of the country's highways. The guerrilla groups stated that they will enforce another national boycott against interdepartmental transportation beginning Wednesday, 20 February.

The rebel groups' threat was issued through a broadcast of clandestine station Radio Venceremos and heard this morning in the capital. The Armed Forces has placed its units on a state of alert to guard and supervise the circulation of vehicles in several sectors of the country, since the leftists stated in their radio broadcasts last night and this morning that they will again boycott public and private transportation activities on the country's highways.

ARMY STEPS UP GUERRILLA SEARCHES IN MORAZAN

PA172154 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1305 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Armed Forces have mobilized troops in eastern Morazan Department to continue the search that began 2 weeks ago for rebel redoubts.

Northern Morazan is regarded as one of the FMLN's strongest bastions.

Colonel Miguel Antonio Mendez, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, reported that troops were airlifted between Morazan and San Miguel.

Two weeks ago the Army launched the second phase of the "Torola-5" operation in northern Morazan, involving over 4,000 men from various detachments with air support.

Colonel Mendez reported that new rebel concentrations have been detected in northern Morazan, which had been "cleaned up" by the Army. The military commander said that military units have begun a search for guerrilla columns and that patrolling along highways in the eastern region has been stepped up.

Mendez said that the Army is conducting the surveillance along the Pan-American and Coastal Highways and the Military Route, which is the most important highway in El Salvador, with support from armored vehicles and reconnaissance planes.

Other military sources said that the Armed Forces have also stepped up patrolling along secondary roads in the eastern region to keep the guerrillas from sabotaging power lines. The entire eastern region, which is made up of Morazan, La Union, San Miguel, and Usulután Departments, has been without electricity for 2 days because rebel forces dynamited several pylons. Sabotage has also left many towns in the eastern region without potable water.

In addition, FMLN forces set fire to several coffee groves yesterday, official sources reported.

The rebels have been waging a permanent campaign of sabotage against economic targets, particularly electricity power, transportation, and farm export products.

Troops, Rebels Clash in Mountains

PA191716 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 Feb 85 pp 10, 41

[Text] Yesterday, for the second consecutive day, approximately 6,000 Army troops, supported by the Air Force and artillery units, clashed with guerrilla groups in the mountains of Morazan. The clashes were more intense near San Fernando and Arambala, where the Army inflicted 15 deaths on the terrorist forces, according to military sources.

"We have suffered five casualties, including dead and wounded," one source said.

The mountainous regions of Morazan near the border with Honduras and along the Torola River are among the major sectors of the country where terrorist groups are located. The Armed Forces are carrying out the "Torola-5" operation in those areas.

Airborne units were sent to strategic towns due to the possibility of new guerrilla attacks, a ranking official said.

Colonel Miguel Antonio Mendez, chief of the 3d Infantry Brigade in San Miguel, said yesterday that in the morning an airlift had been prepared to relieve troops on the war fronts.

The Army is carrying out operations to eliminate terrorist redoubts and to remove guerrillas from this part of the country, where they have been established for a long time.

The Army is also deploying armored equipment, with support from the Air Force, for patrolling some 300 km of highways in the eastern part of the country, where the guerrillas have threatened drivers with attacks on their vehicles if they continue to travel.

Electric services have been reestablished in Usulután, Morazan, and San Miguel Departments, after a 20-hour interruption caused by terrorist attacks.

SECURITY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ARMY RECRUITMENT

PA170318 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1734 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Army is recruiting personnel in various parts of the country because of the need to face foreign aggression, a top military official has said. Deputy Security Minister Colonel Reynaldo Lopez Nuila said that the recruiting is carried out on Defense Ministry orders and has been heaviest in San Salvador.

Lopez Nuila explained that the number of persons recruited varies according to garrison needs. He also noted an obligatory military service bill which will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly.

The Constitution establishes obligatory military service for all Salvadorans between 18 and 30 years of age and that if necessary, everyone fit for military duties can be recruited. Lopez Nuila said that the obligatory military service bill excludes no one, since we all know that we are waging a war against international communism.

Lopez Nuila added that citizens fit for military service will receive notices at home asking them to report to the nearest military post and that there will be controls to prevent any evasions.

He said that there will be regulation and special service for clergymen who claim conscientious objection.

According to reports from citizens to local newspapers, some youths were recruited in a discotheque and many others in playgrounds in San Salvador. In other parts of the country, youths were recruited at churches and hospitals, as well as other places.

A morning newspaper reported yesterday that approximately 8,000 youths were recently recruited in various parts of Cabanas Department.

Lopez Nuila admitted that some recruiting has been carried out, but said it has been done legally and in accordance with the Constitution. Lopez Nuila said that the aggression is not aimed at a single sector but at the people in general. Therefore, we are all obliged to give up a little of what we have to defend our endangered sovereignty.

He explained that in previous years Armed Forces recruits were mainly peasants. The idea was to provide social and cultural benefits to those sectors, because in the Army they could obtain knowledge not available in their own environment. However, he added, things are different now. We need soldiers, and the obligatory military service is not stressing the struggle of classes but eliminating the barriers.

RIVERA Y DAMAS ON NICARAGUA, ELECTIONS, DIALOGUE

PA191952 Tegucigalpa Television Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, has said that Nicaragua is an obstacle to achieving peace in the area through Contadora. Msgr Rivera y Damas also spoke of the situation in his country and the dialogue between the government and the guerrillas.

[Begin recording] This is certainly a critical time. The various political forces are campaigning, and I am sure that the elections will take place. However, I cannot predict what parties will win. It will be a hard-fought campaign. [end recording]

The archbishop of San Salvador also announced this afternoon that dialogue between the guerrillas and the government will take place in the next few weeks.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas] I feel that I have played a very important role and a sign of this is my role as mediator and moderator at the meetings.

[Reporter] When will the next meeting be held?

[Rivera y Damas] After the elections. The elections in El Salvador are scheduled for 31 March. We hope that shortly after the elections the third meeting will be summoned. [end recording]

GUATEMALASPOKESMAN TERMS UK TALKS ON BELIZE 'POSITIVE'

PA190411 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Ramon Celada Carrillo, official spokesman of the office of head of state, said that the new round of UK-Guatemalan talks at the beginning of this week in New York were positive for Guatemala. The results of the meeting will be announced shortly.

David Joy and David Anderson, UK representatives; Alfonso Alonso Lima, adviser to the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry; Eduardo Palomo Escobar, Guatemalan ambassador to Washington; and Arturo Pajardo Maldonado, Guatemala's permanent representative to the United Nations, participated in the talks on the dispute between Guatemala and the United Kingdom regarding Belize.

Belize representatives Robert Leslie and Edward Laing were allowed to attend the talks, but only as observers, because the Guatemalan and UK representatives are responsible for this meeting.

HONDURASARMY INVESTIGATING ALLEGED SANDINIST ATTACK

PA182009 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1900 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Army announced today that it is investigating an alleged Sandinist artillery attack last weekend against several Honduran border villages.

According to press reports in Tegucigalpa, the Nicaraguan Sandinist People's Army fired "at least 20 times" with 105-mm grenades against three Honduran villages.

The villages have been identified as San Marcos de las Selvas, La Lodosa, and San Antonio, in the eastern Department of El Paraiso.

The Honduran Foreign Relations Secretariat has announced that it awaits an official report on the attacks before filing a protest with the government in Managua.

According to the Sandinist regime, some 12 counterrevolutionary camps operate on the Honduran side of the border, supplied and protected by the CIA.

If this incident is confirmed, it would be the fourth of its type between these two countries since January and the third involving Sandinist artillery.

NICARAGUA

PROTEST NOTE TO COSTA RICA OVER BORDER ATTACK

PA191519 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Feb 85

["Text" of protest note sent by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez; date not given]

[Text] Mr Minister, I address Your Excellency in reference to the following serious facts:

On 18 February at 0600 a group of approximately 60 mercenaries attacked, from Costa Rican territory, the Penas Blancas border post with 12 60-mm mortar grenades and rifle and machine-gun fire. Fifteen minutes later, the mercenary bands fired four more grenades into Nicaraguan territory and a member of our border guard was slightly wounded.

According to information given after the attack by Luis Timoteo Rocha, a lieutenant in the Sandinist People's Army, direct communication was established with Costa Rican Lieutenant Malverto Ruiz. Lt Ruiz reported that there had been a clash involving forces located in Costa Rican territory and added that in view of the numerical superiority of the mercenaries, the Costa Rican authorities withdrew further into Costa Rican territory. He also said that four mercenaries had been captured.

These facts once again prove the open use of Costa Rican territory by mercenary organizations that operate in Costa Rica. This goes on despite the fact that many members of these organizations enjoy the status of political refugees, which forbids them from directly or indirectly participating in terrorist activities against another country, as established in the American law on asylum and international rights.

These facts are serious and represent a violation of the sovereignty of a state and are thereby in violation of the international commitments freely accepted by Costa Rica. This is inexcusable because the Costa Rican authorities have admitted that they withdrew farther into their own territory because of the numerical superiority of the counterrevolutionaries and did not take any action to prevent this attack.

In view of these facts, the Nicaraguan Government observers view with surprise Costa Rica's nonfulfillment of its duty, in accordance with international law, to exercise effective control and surveillance of its territory to prevent its use in actions intended to destabilize or attack other states. Likewise, in an act that seems to demonstrate complicity in these actions, the Costa Rican authorities did not fulfill their duty to inform the Nicaraguan Government of the presence on their territory of a large contingent of armed men, which could not have passed unnoticed and was well armed. This fact was admitted by Lt Ruiz when he said that the Costa Rican authorities had left the area because of the numerical superiority of the mercenary bands. This implies that the mercenaries had already been spotted and that the Costa Rican authorities had enough time to advise the Nicaraguan authorities of the attack being prepared.

The seriousness of these facts has forced my government to inform the Contadora Group about this situation, which endangers peace and regional coexistence at a time when, coincidentally, the Costa Rican Government has obstructed the negotiating efforts of the Governments of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. In presenting its strong protest, the Nicaraguan Government calls on the Costa Rican authorities to arrest, disarm, and remove these mercenaries groups from the border area. They should be expelled from Costa Rica in accordance with international law and in view of the need to maintain full enforcement of Costa Rica's proclamation of neutrality vis-a-vis the criminal war directed and financed by the U.S. Government against Nicaragua. This situation also calls for an official report from the Costa Rican Government to that country on the use of its territory for these illegal actions. With this, the Costa Rican Government would be able to prove that its territory is being used without its approval.

Respectfully yours,

[Signed] Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, foreign minister

D'ESCOTO ON FUTURE OF CONTADORA, 'U.S. INTERFERENCE'

PA191619 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Feb 85 p 5

[Text] "It is important that the United States allow Contadora and the Central American countries to exercise civil rights in an independent way and to seek a peaceful solution to the region's problems," Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto remarked yesterday in reference to the recent suspension of the Contadora Group's meeting in Panama.

The ranking official pointed out that the area's fundamental problem is that "the United States refuses to accept that the Sandinist people's revolution is irreversible," but also expressed his belief that area countries are deferring the defense of their people's interests in favor of protecting American interests.

He recalled that after its 30 October meeting, presided over by President Reagan, the U.S. National Security Council issued a document admitting to and commending the effective blockade to the signing of the Contadora peace document which Nicaragua was ready to sign.

In that document, the White House even admitted that Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica were prompted to propose in-depth modifications to the document to fit U.S. purposes, D'Escoto pointed out. He said that the United States' policy of blackmail was thus exposed. "Washington had no qualms about telling several members of the Contadora Group that because Nicaragua is a besieged country, anything can be demanded of it," he added.

Then, he continued, the United States persuaded Costa Rica to condition its participation in the Contadora Group meeting to the release of a Nicaraguan (Urbina Lara) who was arrested outside the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua, based on the charge that Nicaragua had violated the right to asylum. The foreign minister said that Costa Rica had violated that right, not Nicaragua, because international bylaws on asylum do not protect deserters, and that in this case the person was attempting to evade the Patriotic Military Service. He recalled that despite Costa Rica's reaction, Nicaragua offered to discuss the problem through a joint bilateral committee. "We presented unquestionable evidence, including telephone numbers, addresses, and the exact location of mercenary camps, to test the extent to which Costa Rica, which is quite clearly party to the violation of that right, was willing to abide by established norms."

"However, they proceeded to make a totally unreasonable demand," D'Escoto lamented. He also denied international reports that the Nicaraguan Government was willing to send Urbina Lara out of the country. "That is totally false," he asserted.

He stated that the blockade against Contadora and the pressure on Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica to promote U.S. interests, to which the United States pleaded guilty, prevent those countries from defending their peoples' interests. "In view of this situation, the only way to make any headway is if the United States, which confronts Nicaragua through Contadora, decides to confront us directly, outside the Contadora framework, by resuming talks to establish the bases for subsequent negotiations," the leader explained. A dialogue, D'Escoto said, will allow for the normalization of bilateral relations and lead to a treaty, by virtue of which Nicaragua's security will be guaranteed and "the other countries will be free to pursue their own interests through participation in Contadora." "That is the only way the noble purposes of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia will be achieved." "Contadora must be set free so that it may continue its work," Miguel D'Escoto concluded, as he called on all nations involved to allow Latin Americans to solve their problems themselves.

VICE PRESIDENT RAMIREZ ASSESSES EUROPEAN TOUR

PA151535 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Telephone interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado from Paris by unidentified reporter -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ramirez] We are in France concluding a working visit which has covered Spain, the United Kingdom, and Ireland. To finish off, we are here in this country where we have been well received. On the first day of our visit, we had a busy work schedule. We are pleased by the results we have obtained recently. We began our work by meeting with the French economy, finance, and budget minister. We discussed programs for economic cooperation between our governments with him. At the end of the meeting, we signed an agreement for a grant of 10,000 tons of wheat, which will arrive in Nicaragua next week. This is France's contribution to our revolution, to our people, and our government.

Later, we held a meeting with External Relations Minister Roland Dumas. We discussed the Central American situation, and the tense situation which U.S. aggression has caused in Nicaragua. Tomorrow, we will continue our talks in a meeting with France's prime minister. We have also had the opportunity to meet with political party leaders, such as the Socialist Party leader [passage indistinct] with print, voice, and television newsmen. We feel that on the whole, this 4-nation trip has been positive in political as well as economic terms for our revolution.

[Reporter] To conclude, how would you describe the interest in Spain, the United Kingdom, Ireland and now in France in the Central American situation, particularly regarding the situation in Nicaragua?

[Ramirez] One must keep in mind that [passage indistinct] the other countries, we are fighting against Goliath, which is the interventionist and aggressor power, and that by itself shows a great deal of solidarity from peoples who have had similar experiences at certain stages of their development. The Nicaraguan people must be assured that the revolution has great support and great affection and respect [word indistinct] in the world. A very small and weak country has a certain amount of support from all over the world. Our cause is looked upon with great respect by all the countries that we have visited.

Returns Home, Terms Tour 'Positive'

PA190326 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado returned this morning from Europe where he spent 2 weeks, accompanied by Nora Astorga, deputy foreign minister; Pedro Antonio Blandon, deputy foreign cooperation minister; and Roberto Arguello Hurtado, chief justice of the Supreme Court. While in Europe, Vice President Ramirez met with heads of Governments of Spain, Great Britain, Ireland, and France, and also the foreign ministers and cabinet members of these countries.

Ramirez considered his trip to be very positive for his country's foreign policy. He also met with the news media which showed great interest in the Nicaraguan situation. It was a good opportunity to tell them about the Nicaraguan crisis and also about the crisis of the Contadora Group's efforts, the suspension of the talks with the United States in Manzanillo, and other aspects of the military aggression against the Nicaraguan people, he said.

Ramirez said that the Reagan administration tried to prevent his meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Ramirez considered his meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to be very positive. She listened to what I had to say, and I am sure she understood our position because she is a very intelligent woman, he said.

MISSING UN OFFICIAL SAID KILLED BY GOVERNMENT

PA170046 San Jose Ruido Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpts] A UN official who disappeared in Nicaragua was traveling aboard the Cubana de Aviancion airplane that crashed in Havana, according to an official communique from the Nicaraguan regime. Our correspondent in Honduras has this report:

[Begin report] This is a live relay exclusively for Radio Impacto, the most important radio station in Central America, from Honduras. The Sandinist regime has issued a rare, opportunistic story about the fate of Nicaraguan youth Javier Blandon Noguera. The first reports regarding the youth's disappearance revealed that he was in one of the regime's clandestine jails, where he had remained for several days after he was reported missing. This youth arrived in Nicaragua in January to visit his relatives and disappeared in the sector of Altamira Este, in Managua. He arrived from the United States on Monday, 7 January. On 14 February a cable from the United States reported his disappearance in Nicaragua under unclear circumstances. It seems he was a UN official. The international organization became concerned, and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar sent a message to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

Nicaraguan citizen Javier Blandon was a UN administrative employee who went to Nicaragua the first week of January and disappeared under circumstances that the Nicaraguan authorities have been unable to clarify. On 14 February UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar sent a telegram to Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to investigate... [corrects himself] to offer his cooperation in locating young Javier Blandon.

Various versions have circulated in the United States regarding the reasons and circumstances surrounding Blandon's disappearance. In other words, the Sandinist tyranny detained him without knowing that he was a UN administrative official. Then something caught everyone's attention: On 19 January an airplane crashed in Havana; several Nicaraguans died in that accident. The names of some Nicaraguans, a Guatemalan, a Costa Rican, and a U.S. citizen traveling abroad the airplane were revealed.

Now young Javier Blandon's wife has come to Nicaragua to investigate his whereabouts, and the Sandinist regime issued a bulletin some hours ago. The Interior Ministry note says that this youth died in the airplane crash in Havana on 19 January. If so, why was he not identified at the time? Everyone knows that the minute you board an airplane, especially in a country like Cuba, all the passengers are fully identified. Why was he not identified at that time?

We have given you this information so that you may learn how the young man's case has been twisted. Logically, this casts further doubts on the Sandinist regime's credibility, especially at the United Nations. In other words, the regime made a mistake and killed the youth without knowing that he was a UN administrative official. [end report]

FDN Communique

PA182056 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1756 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) today accused the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua of assassinating UN administrative official Ivan [as received] Blandon Noguera.

In a communique delivered to ACAN-EFE in this capital, the FDN indicates that Blandon Noguera arrived in Managua on 7 January to visit his family and stay for a few days in the country.

It adds that on 12 January he disappeared without a trace and that his relatives, especially his mother, Maria Noguera, looked for him in garrisons, police posts, hospitals, and recruitment centers. They also paid for several advertisements in newspapers requesting information on his whereabouts, but failed to obtain any positive results.

The rebels' communique notes that through the clandestine Radio 15 September, Blandon Noguera's relatives were informed that "he is in the hands of the Sandinist state's security forces." It adds that several FDN members in Managua had contacted the family, which had already visited several garrisons, to urge them to visit others.

According to the FDN, the pro-Sandinist papers have admitted the UN official's disappearance. However, the Sandinist regime asserts that Blandon Noguera was one of the Nicaraguans killed in a Cubana de Aviacion accident on 19 January in Havana.

"No one can believe such a hoax when on 30 January the Sandinist papers still regarded the young UN official as missing," the FDN states in its communique.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH GUINEA-BISSAU

FL152340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Omar Iser Mojena, Central Committee member of Cuba's Communist Party and vice president [titles as heard] of the party control and revisions committee, has met with Alexandre Nunes Correira, Central Committee member of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde [PAIGC] and a member of the party's control and revisions committee, who has been in Cuba heading a delegation to the sixth session of the Cuban-Guinea-Bissau cooperation committee.

At the meeting, which was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere, they discussed matters of common interest.

Meanwhile, as a result of the two countries' interest in increasing cooperation in the fields of education, science, and culture, Cuba and Guinea-Bissau today signed a cooperation protocol which takes into account the cultural agreement signed by the two countries in March 1982. Jose Raul Viera, first vice foreign minister, and Alexandre signed the important document on behalf of their respective governments.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ETHIOPIA

FL160220 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] A cooperation protocol has been signed by Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate Politburo member and president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], and Abdela Sonesa, president of the All-Ethiopian Peasants Association.

The accord provides for the exchanges of information, documents, and publications between the two sides, and ANAP educational scholarships for professional courses to the Ethiopian association.

RODRIQUEZ RECEIVES PRESIDENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK BANK

FL161424 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Jan Stejskal, president of the Czechoslovak State Bank.

Carlos Rafael gave the Czechoslovak official an overall view of the most recent decisions of the leaders of the Cuban party and government on the problems of the national economy. The two leaders discussed Cuban-Czechoslovak relations. The president of the Czechoslovak State Bank is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the president of the National Bank of Cuba.

VEIGA, ESCANDEL WELCOME FRENCH LABOR LEADERS

FL181820 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] A high-level delegation from the General Confederation of Workers [CGT] of France, presided over by its secretary general Henri Krasucki, Politburo member of the French Communist Party, is in Cuba at the invitation of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC].

Roberto Veiga, CTC secretary general and alternate Politburo member, and Jesus Escandel, CTC Secretariat member, warmly greeted the leaders of the French working class at the Jose Marti International Airport. The CGT delegation includes Pierre (Ganso), Lucien Postel, and (Hellen Boniout), respectively international relations secretary, and members of the executive and financial committees of the CGT's international department.

CONGOLESE DELEGATION VISITS MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

FL152354 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The delegation from the Congolese Labor Party [PCT], presided over by Daniel Abibi, education secretary of the PCT's Central Committee and minister of secondary and higher education of the brother country, today visited the Ministry of Education in Havana. The delegation includes (Prosper Nagakeni), division chief of the peoples schools, (Salvain Medemba), division chief of culture, art, sports, and recreation, and other Congolese officials.

Meets Jorge Risquet

FL182312 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, a member of the Politburo and Secretariat, today recieved the Congolese Labor Party [PCT] delegation headed by Daniel Abibi, secretary of education of the PCT Central Committee and minister of secondary and higher education of the People's Republic of the Congo. During the fraternal meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the progress achieved in multilateral cooperation, concerning which both sides expressed satisfaction.

PLO DELEGATION MEETS AREA REPRESENTATIVES

LD132355 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Palestinian delegation led by Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, met in Havana yesterday with representatives of the national liberation movements in Latin and Central America accredited in Cuba. They discussed the developments in the Arab region. A statement issued following the meeting, has stressed the backing of the liberation movements for the struggle of the Palestinian people led by their legitimate and sole representative the PLO for the restoration of their legitimate rights on the soil of their homeland. The participants expressed their solidarity with all the peoples who are struggling for freedom and self-determination in Africa, Asia and Latin America and against imperialism and Zionism.

The Palestinian delegation, which has been visiting Cuba for the past 4 days, includes 'Abbas Zaki and Abu Dawud [Muhammad Dawud Awdah], members of the Palestinian National Council.

MONTANE CONCLUDES VISIT TO PORTUGAL, MAKES SPEECH

PA160411 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The international reactionary sectors which are trying to stop and defeat the peoples' liberation and independence struggle, should and can be defeated, said Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and member of the Communist Party of Cuba Secretariat.

In a speech delivered during a ceremony held in Montijo, 40 km from Lisbon, Montane said that the reactionary sectors' threats and aggressions are occurring at a time when the situation demands an increased struggle for peace and security.

Montane expressed his hope that the Communist Parties of Cuba and Portugal will act accordingly.

Regarding the situation in Central America, Montane stressed the real popular nature of the Nicaraguan revolution and the Salvadoran people's efforts to put an end to the exploitative system that the U.S. Government has imposed on them. Montane also referred to the firm and unbreakable loyalty that the Portuguese Communist Party has shown for principles and rights of workers and people. This speech concluded Montane's visit to Portugal at the invitation of the Portuguese Communist Party.

DEL VALLE INAUGURATES PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

FL190220 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Sergio del Valle Jimenez, Politburo member and minister of public health, has inaugurated in Sancti Spiritus the first public health education center in Cuba. The center will instruct the public on habits to maintain and recover good health and on the capacity of the human body for work. The center will work for the optimum use of the possibilities of social assistance and to achieve responsible health habits.

The public health education center in Sancto Spiritus will function in coordination with the schools, work places, the Cuban family, and public health installations as part of the preventive medicine program in Cuba.

CAMACHO, HART PRESIDE AT SANTIAGO INAUGURATION

FL190206 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Excerpt] This afternoon, in an area located near Santiago, the park and monument dedicated to the memory of Frank Pais Garcia were inaugurated. Politburo members Julio Camacho Aguilera, first secretary of the provincial committee, and Armando Hart Davalos, minister of culture, and alternate members of the Politburo Vilma Espin and Abelardo Colome Ibarra, hero of the Republic of Cuba, presided over the ceremony. The keynote speaker, Vilma Espin spoke of the person and the personality of the unforgettable underground fighter, emphasizing that Frank will always be an example for youth, for whom this park has been built.

BARBADOSGOVERNMENT REPORTS DECREASE IN INFLATION RATE

FL181420 Bridgetown CANA in English 0013 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 15, CANA -- The rate of inflation in Barbados averaged 4.6 per cent during 1984, the lowest level in 17 years, a government release said today. The retail price index, on which the rate was calculated, stood at 148.4 points for December, compared with 146.9 for November. When compared with the index at the end of 1983, retail prices at the end of 1984 were 5.1 per cent higher.

The average change in the index for the year 1984 was 4.6 per cent, the lowest rate recorded since 1967, the release said. It added that for the year, price decreases were registered in the categories of clothing and footwear, household operations, and supplies.

GRENADANEWSPAPERS COMMENT ON WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS

FL1200148 Bridgetown CANA in English 2229 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 19, CANA -- The independent GRENADIAN VOICE newspaper and the opposition-backed GRENADA GUARDIAN have criticized the United States' planned withdrawal of its security personnel from Grenada by mid-June. Both papers warned that leftists might again try to seize power when the Americans withdrew.

In an editorial, the GRENADIAN VOICE said the planned withdrawal of the 100 military policemen and 150 support personnel was disturbing news to most serious-thinking Grenadians.

American troops have been on the island since a U.S.-led invasion of the island that toppled a leftist junta. The contingent reached 6,000 at the height of the intervention.

The newspaper said the Grenada police force was being built up rapidly and was receiving a lot of training, but asked: Since when has instant training meant instant qualification? The paper said many Grenadians feel the American decision to withdraw is based on the desire to leave while they are still welcomed. They needn't worry, the newspaper said, despite the rumblings of rejected and discredited elements in the society and their cohorts abroad...the vast majority of Grenadians do not feel occupied and want a continuing American presence here...many even want it permanently.

Things may appear calm and stable, the paper said, but the ousted forces and system are eager for an opportunity to turn the tables.

The GRENADA GUARDIAN, published by ex-Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), said: It is difficult to see the Americans voluntarily withdrawing from any country in which the communists are interested.

In an editorial, the paper said it was obvious that the New National Party government must have brought a little pressure to bear for the Americans to act out of character. A person must be a communist or a lunatic, the GUARDIAN said, if he cannot see that the communists will not miss the slightest opportunity to take hold of Grenada again.

Sir Eric has already vowed that he and his GULP will do all in their power to have Washington change its decision and have the Americans stay, the paper said.

It urged Prime Minister Herbert Blaize to consider what it said were the people's wishes and the obvious economic advantages of a continued American presence.

JAMAICA

RYAN PERALTO ELECTED JLP GENERAL SECRETARY

FL181430 Bridgetown CANA in English 1523 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Kingston Jamaica, Feb 18, CANA -- Parliamentarian Ryan Peralto is the new general secretary of Prime Minister Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party. Peralto was elected Sunday by the JLP's Central Executive to replace Construction Minister Bruce Golding, who became chairman following the resignation last August of Dr Ronald Irvine.

Peralto was one of Golding's deputies and the JLP said he was unopposed for the job. Political analysts here say that Peralto was taking up the job at a particularly crucial time, with the JLP's political stocks low because of current economic hardships, and with the opposition People's National Party (PNP) pressing for general elections.

The JLP said that at Sunday's meeting, the Central Executive discussed the state of the economy and maintained support for the bold measures being taken by the government to restructure and strengthen the country's economic base. They were concerned at the impact Alcoa's decision to shut down indefinitely its 550,000-tonne alumina plant here will have on the economy and urged the mining minister to pursue talks with the company to minimise the hardships to employees who will lose their jobs.

PNP RULES OUT NATIONAL UNITY DIALOGUE WITH SEAGA

FL151924 Bridgetown CANA in English 1658 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 15, CANA -- Opposition People's National Party (PNP) Chairman Percival Patterson has ruled out national unity dialogue with the Edward Seaga administration. The PNP are not mendicants, begging for the restoration of a system of political integrity which Seaga has so ruthlessly broken, Patterson, Thursday told clergy of mainstream churches whose support the party is seeking in its call for early general elections.

Patterson was responding to growing calls here for bi-partisan dialogue on Jamaica's deep social and economic problems, culminating this week with a remark by Jesuit social worker Father Richard Ho-Lung that Prime Minister Seaga and PNP leader Michael Manley were egotists keeping the country divided.

The PNP boycotted a December 1983 general election because they were called on an out-dated voters' register and without the implementation of agreed reforms to eliminate illegal voting. A new voters' list is now ready, and the other elements of the package streamlined. Patterson told the churchmen that, prior to the 1983 bogus election, his party had made several overtures for national dialogue and was always ready to cooperate in certain areas in which there can be consensus.

Regular calls now for dialogue between the parties was partly a reflection of the need to restore credibility in government and secure leadership which can truly inspire by example. An obvious prerequisite of national unity must be the holding of general elections within an agreeable time frame, Patterson said.